

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:474
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011
BROADCASTING CONTENT COMPLAINTS COUNCIL
Yadav Shri Dinesh Chandra

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) has a mandate to monitor the contents of the programme being telecast on the TV channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the composition of BCCC and the criteria fixed for selection of office bearers to the said council; and
- (d) the steps taken to educate the general public about the existence of BCCC?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 474 FOR ANSWER ON 6.9.2011

(a) to (d) The Broadcasting Content Complaint Council (BCCC) is an independent self regulatory body set up by the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), in consultation with the Ministry, to regulate the content on general entertainment channels. The BCCC has the mandate to look into all complaints relating to violation of Programme Code by entertainment channels, and give suitable directions to concerned channels to modify or withdraw any objectionable content. If it is reported to the BCCC or it comes to its notice that any Broadcaster/Television Channel is not complying with its directions, it has the mandate to initiate any one or a combination of the following action:-

- (i) Issue a warning to implement the direction within next forty-eight hours.
- (ii) Direct the Channel to air an apology in such manner as may be decided.
- (iii) Issue a directive to the IBF not to consider the outstandings of that Channel for processing till the matter is resolved.
- (iv) Issue a directive to IBF to take necessary action to expel the concerned member.
- (v) In exceptional cases of a Television Channel not carrying out the directions of the BCCC, the BCCC may recommend to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for appropriate action against the Channel, as per the law.

As per the self regulation guidelines, any Directive issued by the BCCC to the IBF shall be binding and must be implemented with immediate effect.

The BCCC is a 13 Member body consisting of a Chairperson being a retired judge of Supreme Court or High Court and 12 other Members. The composition of other members is as under:

- (i) Four eminent persons
- (ii) Four broadcaster members
- (iii) Four members from national level Statutory Commissions

In the last category, the National Commissions will be mandatorily represented by National Commission for Women (NCW), the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) and National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC). The fourth Member will be selected for a meeting of BCCC depending on the nature of the complaint, to represent other National Commissions like National Commission for Other Backward Classes, National Commission for Minorities.

The Chairperson of the BCCC will be appointed by the Board of IBF by a majority decision. The four eminent persons (non-

Broadcaster Members) shall be renowned persons of impeccable integrity, high social standing and outstanding achievements in the field of administration, media, and social work and would be selected by separate panel of eminent persons to be appointed by the IBF Board. Members from national level statutory commissions shall either be the Chairperson or any other Member of such Commission so nominated by the Chairperson of the Commission to be part of BCCC. The four Broadcaster Members would be nominated at the voting at the Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) to ensure fair and transparent representation. All decisions of the BCCC shall be by simple majority of the Members present. The Chairperson and other Members excepting Broadcasting Members shall hold office for a period of three years. The term of Broadcasters Members shall be for one year.

The BCCC has since been constituted and has started functioning from 30.6.2011.

The IBF has undertaken publicity measures to educate the public about the existence of BCCC and the most prominent action in this regard is a scroll running on all programmes after each half an hour where the viewers are being advised to register complaints relating to the content to BCCC. The details of BCCC are available at the website of IBF i.e. www.ibfindia.com.